

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, amend the paragraph beginning on line 13 as follows :

Conventionally, bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus* are known as simultaneously thermo-resistant and acid-resistant bacteria (TAB: thermo ~~acidophilie~~ acidophilic bacilli). Moreover, spores of bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus* are known to be resistant to general pasteurization for fruit juice and the like.

On page 2, amend the paragraph beginning on line 14 through line 15 as follows:

[Non-Patent Document 2] Nippon Shokuhin ~~Kagaku~~ Kogaku Kaishi Vol. 49, No. 8, 555-558 (2002)

On page 3, amend the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:

The present inventors have studied diligently in order to solve the above problems, resulting in the finding that fruit juice derived from acerola (*Malpighia emarginata* DC.) fruit and the like is capable of inhibiting or blocking the growth of bacteria belonging to the genus *Alicyclobacillus*, and have completed the present invention.

On page 3, amend the paragraph beginning on line 19 as follows:

That is, a first aspect of the present invention is a bacterial growth inhibitor or bacteriostatic agent against thermo acidophilic bacilli (TAB), containing puree or fruit juice obtained from acerola (~~*Malpighia emarginata* DC.~~) fruit, as an active ingredient.